

The 127th annual meeting of the Bent-Prowers Cattle and Horse Growers Association convened at 1:00 P.M. on Saturday March 16, 1996 at Lamar Community College in Lamar, Colorado with President Hans Hasser presiding.

Jim Schleining gave the invocation and the Southeast Colorado Junior Cattlemen's Association led the Pledge of Allegiance. Lamar Mayor Jan Gehlhausen welcomed the group on behalf of the City of Lamar.

Betty Shawcroft, President-Elect of the Colorado Cattlemen reported on the success of the "How Cattle Shape Your World" booth at the National Western Stock Show.

Bonnie Lessenden, President of the Southeast Colorado Cattlemen, reported on the Cattlemen's meeting at the Colorado Boys Ranch and on the various Beef Promotion projects throughout the last year.

Darrin Nielsen, Arkansas Valley Cattlemen, reported that they give a beef gift to the mother of babies born on Mother's Day. Also, the Arkansas Valley Cattlemen are offering a scholarship to students in the La Junta, Cheraw, and Kim schools the area served by their organization.

Gail Piper, Southeast Colorado Beef Education Fund representative, spoke to the group on the purpose and plans of the Fund which is in the beginning phases. A planned kick-off date of April 1, 1996 is planned with Beef Demonstrations at County Market in Lamar.

Kaye Kasza, Southeast Colorado Cattlemen, presented the groups "Cattlemans of the Year" Award to Susie Brock of Springfield.

Doris Morgan reported from U.S. Representative Wayne Allard's office. Budget debates are still underway as are negotiations on the new Farm Bill. Rep. Allard has been named as a negotiator of the bill for the House. As it now stands, CRP contracts will continue through the year 2002, with the return of the landlord-tenant relationship and extensions but not new contracts.

Colorado Representative Mike Salaz reported that Colorado does have a balanced budget. Representative Salaz stressed the point that our best defense in the State House is to keep informed and abreast of bills being introduced and to respond to our elected officials early on our views, pro or con, of the various bills.

Sparky Turner reported from U.S. Senator Hank Brown's office. A continuing resolution on the budget has been passed and will help to alleviate some of the budget problems of the past year. Also, the Grazing Bill is coming up for vote, at the present time the bill is short on passing votes in the senate. A senate vote on this bill will try to be delayed to get a full Senate debate and a better chance of passing. The Senate Farm Bill has been

amended to include an instream water bill; this would require the Forest Service to use the same permit system as private individuals for water that flowed across their properties. Sparky also reported that, according to Cattle Fax figures import of cattle from Canada and Mexico may be dropping in the future because of industry and economic changes in those countries.

Doyle Davidson of the Colorado Boys Ranch thanked Bent-Prowers for their support of the ranch and reported that the ranch has been split into 2 ranches by private individuals, one at Cotopaxi and the Plum Bear Ranch at Springfield. He then introduced Rory and Wendy Lynch, managers of the Plum Bear Ranch, to the meeting.

David Sykes, President of the Southeast Colorado Juniors, reported on the new officers of the Juniors and on planned activities for the coming year.

Members of the CCA Board of Control present were Miles Davies-President, Reeves Brown-Executive Vice President, Don Palmer, Vernon Sharp, and Joe Kasza.

Mr. Davies stressed the importance of membership, especially in this time of a down cattle market and in light of the various bills in the legislature that will affect our industry.

Reeves Brown briefed the group on several bills in the State Legislature including the Non-Ambulatory Livestock bill with the Fiscal note removed, the Predator bill, the Property Rights bill, and a bill putting value on the stewardship of State Lands not just maximum return.

Congratulations to Jess Perkins, Division of Wildlife Landowner of the Year, were offered by Mel Depra, Area Supervisor for the Division of Wildlife. Mr. Depra further reported that the Division is being reorganized with a cut in the number of mid level supervisor positions. Other changes will be the addition of Cheyenne County to Area 12, the Lamar office, instead of the Colorado Springs office. This will add one officer to the Lamar area personnel. It was also stated that the coyote and rattlesnake seasons were considered necessary to keep the issue off of the ballot or end up with the problem we had with the spring bear season several years ago. The point was made that there is a landowner or agent exemption for both of these seasons.

President Hans Hasser then convened the regular meeting.

Steve McEndree made a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the last meeting. Seconded by Doug Hasser. Motion Passed.

Milton Rink gave the Audit Committee Report and moved that it be accepted. Seconded by Ross Nielsen. Motion Passed.

Milton also moved that the Banking Summary be accepted. Seconded by Doug Hasser. Motion Passed.

A motion to accept the proposed budget was made by Milton Rink and seconded by Corwin Brown. Motion Passed.

John Smartt, Secretary-Treasurer of the Bent-Prowers Endowment Trust, reported on the Endowment Trust Funds and moved that the report be accepted. Seconded by Milton Rink. Motion passed.

Milton Rink then read the resolutions and moved for their acceptance.

Resolution #1 concerning Packer Concentration. Seconded by Jess Perkins. Resolution accepted.

Resolution #2 concerning Estate Taxes. Seconded by John Smartt. Resolution accepted.

Resolution #3 concerning proposed Rail Line Closure. Amended by Bill Wootten. Further amendment asked for by Jim Rehfeld to include reversion of Railroad mineral rights to the landowner. Upon discussion, Jim Schleining moved that the Resolution be tabled and rewritten. Seconded by John Smartt. Resolution #3 tabled.

Resolution #4 concerning State Land Board mission and makeup. Seconded by Jess Perkins. Resolution Accepted.

Resolution #5 concerning use of Lottery Funds for Schools and Highways. Seconded by Doug Hasser. Resolution Accepted.

Resolution #6 concerning the purchase of Foreign beef by Burger King. Seconded by Bill Gray. Resolution Accepted.

Resolution #7: Thank you for success of the 127th annual meeting. Seconded by Steve Ptolemy. Resolution Accepted.

Resolution #8: Honor of deceased members.

Resolution #9: Resolution #3 was not called back from the table so it was changed to #9 and seconded by Bill Wootten as rewritten. Resolution Accepted.

Steve Ptolemy listed the nominees for the 1996 Board of Directors of the Bent-Prowers Cattle and Horse Growers. Motion to accept the nominees by Doug Hasser and seconded by Johnnie Weber.

President: David Mendenhall

1st Vice President: Milton Rink

2nd Vice President: Bruce Fickenscher

Past Presidents: Hans Hasser

Steve Ptolemy

Jim Rehfeld

Otero County Directors: Pat Karney, Walt Myers, and Ross Nielsen

Prowers County Directors: Dale Seufer, Kerry Hartshorn, Marilyn Pettinger, and Andy Prosser

Bent County Directors: Joe Kasza, John Smartt, Dave Miller, and Dave Turner

Kiowa County Directors: Greg Shalberg, Bill Gray, and Dale Butler

Baca County Directors: Steve McEndree, Randy Shaw, and Keith
VanCampen

Milton Rink then read the biography of the 19th Bent-Prowers
Honorary Life Member. Corwin Brown was the recipient of this
years award.

President David Mendenhall then asked for any new business.
As there was none the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bruce Fickenscher

Bruce Fickenscher, Sec.

Resolution #1 concerning Packer Concentration:

WHEREAS: There is concern within the beef producing community that packer concentration may exist.

AND WHEREAS: Proven packer concentration would be detrimental to fair and equitable fed cattle pricing.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That Bent-Prowers Cattle and Horse Growers Association. support continued monitoring of potential packer concentration.

Resolution #2 concerning Estate Taxes:

WHEREAS: Many agriculture operations are the result of the dedicated work of many generations.

AND WHEREAS: Estate tax burdens can cause forced dispersion of those family owned operations.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That Bent-Prowers Cattle and Horse Growers Association. supports the efforts to raise the estate tax exemption.

Resolution #3 concerning proposed rail line closure:

Tabled to be amended

Resolution #4 concerning State Land Board mission and makeup:

WHEREAS: When Colorado was granted Statehood, it was given approximately 4,000,000 acres of land to assist in financing its public schools.

AND WHEREAS: Under the State Constitution a State Land Board was established to manage, protect, and generate revenues from these State lands for the public schools.

AND WHEREAS: Bent-Prowers Cattle and Horse Growers Association and the Colorado Cattlemen's Association has historically worked in a cooperative effort with the State Land Board assisting them in achieving their mission.

AND WHEREAS: In the last year the State Land Board, with full support of the Colorado Cattlemen's Association, has implemented large increases in State land leases that are being used for agriculture, bringing State land agricultural lease rates up to and in many cases above, private agricultural lease rates.

AND WHEREAS: During this same time the State Land Board has been pressured by its sister State agencies, the Governor, and large county and city governments to lease prime State lands for public recreation at lease rates far below market values. Examples are the present recreational access agreements with the Division of Wildlife and the new Section 16 lease with El Paso County and Manitou Springs.

AND WHEREAS: These below market lease rates are subsidizing the local economies of Colorado Springs, Steamboat Springs, Vail, Telluride and other imilar areas at the expense of our public schools

AND WHEREAS: Governor Romer is reque ting a ballot initiative to change the mission of the State Land Board and the makeup of the Board so that it will be easier to continue these give aways assuming agricultural lease increases will subsidize the losses.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Bent-Prowers Cattle and Horse Prowers Association goes on record that it opposes any ballot initiative that will change the present mission of the State Land Board and its makeup.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Bent-Prowers Cattle and Horse Growers Association goes on record that in supporting the agricultural lease increases, it demands that all other State leases of any kind, especially the Division of Wildlife recreation access leases and leases like the Section 16 lease in El Paso County, must be at marker value also.

Resolution #5 concerning use of Lottery Funds:

WHEREAS: Funding of Colorado's public schools grades K through 12 is continually falling behind.

AND WHEREAS: The State of Colorado, just a few years ago, was ranked in the top 10% of all states in the Union for school funding and now has slopped into the bottom 10% of all the states in the Union for school funding.

AND WHEREAS: Governor Romer is requesting large tax increases to pay for school funding.

AND WHEREAS: The State highway systems are continually falling in greater disrepair.

AND WHEREAS: the State Highway Task Force appointed by Governor Romer is requesting and looking for large sums of additional money to repair and build highways.

AND WHEREAS: All of Colorado's lottery funds are being used for recreation.

AND WHEREAS: More and more Colorado Lottery funds will be used by Go Colorado to compete directly with small family farms and ranches to buy property and take them off the tax rolls in the name of recreation.

AND WHEREAS. Our public school and our highways infrastructure are far more important than recreation to the citizens and taxpayers of the State.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Bent Prowers Cattle and Horse Growers Association goes on record that they request all of their sister local cattlemen associations, the Colorado Cattlemen's Association, the State Board of Education, local school districts, the State Highway Department, and all other interested groups in Colorado join together to bring before the citizens of Colorado, a Ballot Initiative Constitutional Amendment requiring that all Colorado Lottery funds must be used for public school financing and highway repair and construction.

Resolution #6 concerning Burger King:

WHEREAS: There is evidence that Burger King restaurants use foreign beef in their products.

AND WHEREAS: This practice affects the price of domestic beef negatively.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That Bent-Prowers Cattle and Horse Growers Association members inform the public of this practice and encourage them to take their business elsewhere.

Resolution #7 :

BE IT RESOLVED: That the Bent-Prowers Cattle and Horse Growers Association take this opportunity to offer sincere thanks and appreciation to the companies, media, and individuals who have made us welcome and have so generously contributed to the success of this 127th annual meeting.

Resolution #8:

Since our last annual meeting, many of our beloved and valued members passed to their reward. We who remain, have enjoyed and benefitted from their association with us, and we are saddened by their absence.

We share in the sorrow of their families and loved ones and to their memory, we pledge to support the principles which these great men and women have firmly instilled in our association.

We, the members of the Bent-Prowers Cattle and Horse Growers Association, now stand to take a moment to memorialize our deceased member.

Resolution #9 concerning the proposed rail line closure:

WHEREAS: The railroad system is one of the vital links between rural America and urban America.

AND WHEREAS: Rural areas depend on rail transportation to transport agricultural commodities from the producer to the marketplace.

AND WHEREAS: The abandonment of Union Pacific-Southern Pacific would be an economic hardship to the communities that currently use the Union Pacific-Southern Pacific railroad.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Bent-Prowers Cattle and Horse Growers Association supports any efforts to insure continued agricultural operations of the proposed abandonment, ICC Finance Docket Number 32760.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Bent-Prowers Cattle and Horse Growers Association opposes the application and urge the Interstate Commerce Commission to deny ICC Finance Docket Number 32760.